

PRESIDENT ASSAILS LIBYA OVER CHAD

He Says He Does Not Foresee Participating Militarily in Defending Government

By FRANCIS X. CLINES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11 — President Reagan today denounced Libya's military activity in Chad but said the United States was "not in any way in line for participating militarily" in defending the Chadian Government from being overthrown.

"It is not our primary sphere of influence; it is that of France," he said in response to questioning at the White House about the assault on the Government of Chad by Libyan-supported rebels.

Saying the United States was in constant consultation with French officials, Mr. Reagan added, "I don't see any situation that would call for military intervention by the United States."

At a brief news conference, he denounced Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi, the Libyan leader, as an adventurer bent on "empire building" in Chad. But the President emphasized the limits of United States aid so far, which includes the use of two A-10s intelligence planes, \$25 million in arms, some weapons and training advice, and the offer of air transport to move other government troops to Chad.

Battle Is Far From the Capital

Mr. Reagan said the Faya-Largeau area in Chad was not such a "key spot" as it is reported to be the rebels would have to move southward toward the capital, where the French paratroop force is now based.

The President discussed Chad in responding to questions in the White House briefing room, which he visited after meeting for the first time with the new administration on Central America, headed by former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

After the private meeting Mayor Henry G. Cisneros, a member who has been critical of the President's military pressure in the region, said Mr. Reagan made a "moving statement about the poverty of the region" as a root cause of the area's historical social and economic problems.

French soldiers talking yesterday with boys outside the troops' compound in Ndjamen, Chad. One of the youngsters is wearing a T-shirt with the image of President Hissen Habré.

President Reagan echoed this tone in his comments to reporters in which he did not repeat his recent emphasis on Soviet and Cuban influence in instigating insurgency in Central America. Instead, he spoke of his hope that restoring stability in that area would lead to the entire hemisphere to improved economic and social conditions. In saying this he acknowledged past insensitivity on the part of the United States.

'Equal Partners and Allies'

"While the intentions were good," the President said of past Washington policy in the region, "somehow we have been insensitive about the size and about our suggesting something as a plan that everyone should adopt." He added that the United States had hoped to approach other nations to "get their cooperation, their ideas and bring all of the nations of the Americas together as equal partners and allies."

"I think it is a fine commission and represents a variety of viewpoints, and I hope that it will be passed intact," the President said in noting that the 12 members were still undergoing Government security checks.

Mr. Reagan disagreed with the notion raised this week by the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. John A. Wickham Jr., that the United States' worldwide commitments might be stretching the military too thin. The President said that while "the world has grown more interdependent" and required a variety of peacetime commitments, the forces would be strained only if they were "called into action in all those places at once."

He rejected a questioner's suggestion that the United States military forces involved in places such as Lebanon, Egypt and Latin America, had been altering policy and "responding to trouble spots always in a military fashion."

Maneuvers in Central America

"I don't think so at all," Mr. Reagan answered, noting that marines now in Lebanon were invited as part of a non-combat peacekeeping force. "Under a previous President, a few years back, there was an entire division in Lebanon," he said.

He questioned the term "show of force" in describing the Administration's recent decision to send troops

near Central American trouble spots. He contended that these were part of annual training procedures and that news accounts were in error in describing the latest maneuvers as the biggest so far. "It's only about half as big as the one we held within the year in Panama, where there were 10,000 troops involved," he said.

Actually, most of those troops were from Panama; 3,000 were from the United States. The latest Central American maneuvers may involve up to 3,500 United States personnel, according to Pentagon estimates.

In discussing Chad, Mr. Reagan declined to criticize France's reaction thus far to the war. Asked whether Paris should supply air support to Chad, the President said that "frankly, we had believed at first that there would be some aerial activity" by the French because Libya was supplying its forces of the rebels. "I'm just not privy to their military planning and I think that's explainable," he said, referring to the need to protect against "leaks" that might benefit "the wrong people."

"There were human losses, mainly among the civilian population," Information Minister Soumaila reported. About half the Chadian Army was deployed at the northern oasis before the attack. If the Libyan assault was as severe as Western and Chadian accounts indicate, casualties might have been high.

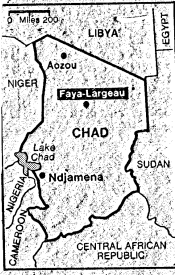
Even before the assault, hospital officials here said, badly wounded Government soldiers had been left to die in the oases.

Only wounded soldiers who had a good chance of survival were evacuated by truck across the 500 miles of inhospitable terrain separating the northern settlement from the capital.

Government forces, meanwhile, reported the recapture of Oum Chelouba, a desert settlement 200 miles southeast of Faya-Largeau on the road to Abéché, the most important town in eastern Chad. Abéché is regarded by some Westerners here as the most likely target of any further Libyan attack.

Chad's authorities said that Government troops recaptured the town late Wednesday and took 800 prisoners, many of them described as African mercenaries, including 200 Sudanese. The assault on Faya-Largeau started

on in Chad ill to Libyans



The New York Times/Aug. 11, 1983
Faya-Largeau was said to have fallen in a five-hour assault by planes, artillery and armor.

less than 12 hours after France, Chad's former colonial ruler, announced that it was sending military instructors. The intention of Paris evidently was to discourage Colonel Qaddafi from further military advances.

But the Libyan leader, who has called successive Western bluffs in his six-week-old campaign in northern Chad, did not heed the warning. The main concern among Westerners here is when he will regroup his forces and move southward toward Ndjamen.

The Libyan-backed rebels took Faya-Largeau earlier in the campaign but lost it on July 30 to troops reportedly commanded personally by President Hissen Habré, a veteran desert fighter.

The defeat, it was said, angered the Government leader so much that he responded by throwing armored columns and combat planes into the fray, easily overwhelming the town's defenders.

French aid to Chad "is insufficient in face of the threat," Information Minister Soumaila said today. "It does not correspond to the danger. We want French air power against Libyan air power. This will be a long war and we do not have the means to sustain it. We want the physical intervention of French forces."

The Western military expert declared: "Right now, there's not much to block the Libyans."

Transcript of Session Held by the President

Following is a transcript of President Reagan's news conference in Washington yesterday, as recorded by The New York Times through the facilities of CNN.

OPENING STATEMENT

I'm so used to seeing your tear-stained faces as I pass you by out on the South Lawn. I have held a first meeting with the — (laughter) took a little while, didn't it? — I have just attended a first meeting with the commission chaired by Dr. Kissinger, the Commission on Central America, and have explained to them, if any explanation was needed, what it is we have in mind for that commission; that I have believed for a long time that this country in the past, even though it has had a reputation for better neighborly relations with the countries in the rest of the Americas, and while the intentions were good, somehow maybe there was an insensitivity about our size and our suggesting something as a plan that everyone should adopt. That I have been looking for a way in which we could get their cooperation, their ideas, and bring all of the nations of the Americas closer together as equal partners and allies, and that this is the kind of long-range plan to bring this about, to alleviate some of the conditions that have made many of those countries subject to recurring revolutions, because the revolutions have always been — or for the most part have been — revolutions that simply change one set of rulers for another set of rulers.

I began this before I had even taken office, with regard to our nearest neighbor, Mexico, and to see if we can't make the borders meeting places instead of lines for confrontation or separation. And the very fact that we're all Americans, from the South Pole to North Pole here in these two continents, with a common desire for individual freedom, is such that I just hope that we can begin to bring this about and bring together more than 600 million people in our two continents and the isthmus, and that their job would be to start with Central America and see how we could have economic and social reforms that could help bring this about.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Situation in Chad

Q. Mr. President, how far are you willing to go militarily to save Chad from falling into the hands of rebels backed by Libya?

A. Well, Chad actually, you might say, is in a sphere of interest of the French, France, because of the aid in their relationship with that area has made it plain that they considered their principal place. We are in consultation with them and I will answer to requests, provided weapons and some trainers in the use of those weapons.

We are, at the same time now, because of the concern of all of the Northern African states there, or the African states, about the Libyan intervention — Qaddafi and his adventuring down there have been all concerned. And for that reason, many of the African states are providing troops. We have volunteered to — some of them — the aid in the transportation of those troops, but we're not in any way in line for participating militarily other than that. Central America do you think are the chances, in view of the fall today of Faya-Largeau, that Chad will survive through the present summer?

A. Well, it's a very volatile situation and I don't know that I could — I'm not going to hazard a guess. But Chad looks so small on the map when you see it pictured so often. We forget the size of Africa because if Chad is superimposed on an American map of the United States — you find that it's a country that extends virtually from the Mexican to the Canadian border and is a few states wide when it's looked at in that way.

So Faya-Largeau, I think, of course, but it's our understanding, as

well as we can get information out of there, that the Habré forces have been withdrawn, that they came out not dispersed or captured or overrun. But again, I have to caution you that my reports we're getting, there are conflicting reports of all kinds coming from there.

But, as I've said before, this is such a key spot that this marks the immediate end of the war. The reason I gave you the geographic description is that it's a long way from the capital, Ndjamen, where the French paratroop forces have gone in, things of that kind.

I'm going to start, as I said before, I'm going to try to start with some back there a little further because I never get beyond about the first two lines, you see?

Q. Mr. President, would the United States allow Chad to fall to Qaddafi and the Libyans rather than intervene?

A. Well, I've said before, it is not our primary sphere of influence. It is that of France. We remain in constant consultation with them but I don't see any situation that would call for military intervention by the United States there.

Cuban on Commission

Q. Mr. President, I wanted to ask you a question on the commission. Have you decided whether to retain or remove the Cuban-American member of the commission while the allegations remain against him?

A. There is, as you know, a clearinghouse for the information that is about Qaddafi and perhaps the Sudan or Egypt, why is this an American concern?

President Reagan greeting Potter Stewart at yesterday's meeting of the commission on Central America at the White House. At center is Lane Kirkland, another commission member.

any, I think it is a fine commission and represents a variety of viewpoints, and I hope that it will be passed intact.

Role of French in Chad

Q. Mr. President, you described Chad as lying within the French sphere of influence. Do you feel the French are at the moment doing enough to counter Libya?

A. I have to tell you that I'm not aware of what their plans might be or what it is that they're prepared to do. I know they have introduced ground forces in there but I'm just not privy to their military planning and I think that's explainable. I think that they know that the more something is talked about, the more it leaks, and the leaks in this case could benefit the wrong people.

Q. Mr. President, you have said, though, that you were in consultation, close consultation with the President. Do you think that it would be helpful if they provided support to Chad, and should they be providing more than the limited ground forces and the trainers that they've sent already?

A. Well, as I say, I don't know what their plans are. Frankly, we had believed at first that there was going to be some aerial activity there. I don't know whether they're negotiating at the same time with Libya or not, but I know that we had thought that because part of Libya's forces, key forces in their first advance, not only that, why are we so concerned about that part of the world? If it is the French sphere of influence, what is it about Qaddafi and perhaps the Sudan or Egypt, why is this an American concern?

concern to anyone, but the main concern is to the surrounding African states. They are all very much alarmed and disturbed because they believe that Qaddafi is intent on advancing far beyond his own borders, and they believe that they're all under a threat.

Stretching of Troops

Q. Mr. President, are you worried that United States forces are being stretched too thin around the globe, as I believe the Army Chief of Staff said recently?

A. Well, I think that what we have been doing is that in training the military, in planning our own security, you have to consider what are all of the contingencies that could require for our security some action by us. And then the question is why you have games in various parts of the world, and joint training exercises. As a matter of fact, many of you have referred to the one in Honduras as the biggest; it's only about half as big as the one we held within the year in Panama, where there were 10,000 troops involved.

Q. Are you saying that it's not the American role to play policeman around the world?

A. No, it is not. It is to recognize that threats can be that widespread, and the threats to our security. Because we know, for example, that a great percentage of the strategic minerals that are needed for our industrial might come from various places in the world. The oil that we import, we can't stand by and say that we have no consideration of what might happen in closing off the seaports that are used by the tankers supplying us with the oil that we must import.

Response to Trouble

Q. Mr. President, the United States now has Marines in Lebanon, we have AWACS planes in North Africa, we have a military training mission going on with Egypt and we have a show of military force in Latin Amer-

ica. There's an impression now that you're responding to trouble spots always in a military fashion. Has there been a change in your approach to problems around the world? Is there a shift in our policy?

A. I don't think so at all. Under a previous President, a few Presidents back, there was a division in Lebanon. This was part of our peace program there, they're not there in a combat state, they're there to help while the Libyan Government — or the Lebanese Government — tries to regain control over its own territory. There were games in Egypt that are going on, with the practice maneuvers, joint maneuvers, that's an ancient thing that we've done for a long time.

Now I notice that you changed the tone and said it was a show of force in Central America. Well, we have held joint maneuvers, both naval and on land, repeatedly with our friends and allies here in the Americas. As a matter of fact, many of you have referred to the one in Honduras as the biggest; it's only about half as big as the one we held within the year in Panama, where there were 10,000 troops involved.

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So this is all based on what could be, what could involve our own security. That's why, Mr. President, I was just going to get back into the middle of it.

NIGERIAN REJECTS ELECTION CHARGES

President Dismisses Rivals' Vote-Rigging Accusations

By CLIFFORD D. MAY

Special to The New York Times

LAGOS, Nigeria, Aug. 11 — President Shagari, who took office in the early hours of the morning was named the winner of Saturday's presidential elections, today rejected "massive rigging" and irregularities and malpractices.

"I don't take it very seriously," he said at a news conference. "Nigerians like to complain, especially when they lose."

Even before the results were announced, spokesmen for the opposition parties all rejected voting results in one or more states and issued protests regarding the conduct of the elections.

President Shagari's main rival, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, has made no statement since the national electoral commission released the results.

Accusation of Rigging

A spokesman for Chief Awolowo's Unity Party of Nigeria said that he was convinced that "massive rigging" had taken place, but added, "We are not going to lead our people to the streets."

The spokesman, Michael Ajulochukwu, said: "We want to prove to our detractors here and abroad that our party will not involve Nigeria in violence."

Mr. Ajulochukwu said that his party did intend to join two other opposition parties in a legal battle over the electoral results.

Dr. Pat Utomi, a well-known political scientist, said: "The elections were more free and fair than any ever held in Nigeria."

"That's not to say that some rigging didn't take place in some areas and that there wasn't malfeasance. But it was probably done about equally by all the parties. No one can claim the right to throw the first stone."

Official Results

According to the final results, President Shagari polled 12,047,648 votes, compared with 7,885,434 for Chief Awolowo. No other candidate came close to matching those numbers.

The winner must garner not only a plurality but also at least 25 percent of the votes in 13 or more of Nigeria's 19 states. President Shagari won in 16 states compared with 7 for Chief Awolowo.

President Shagari said this morning that Nigeria's voters had been "wise to allow those who have tested the democratic system here to continue with it, to put it on a firm foundation."

Four more elections — gubernatorial, senatorial, congressional and state assembly — are scheduled on consecutive Saturdays.

President Shagari said that improving the Nigerian economy would be his first priority, with special emphasis on agriculture. Once a food exporter, Nigeria is now heavily dependent on agricultural imports.

GIVE TO THE PEOPLE AID BILLS